Mr. A. K. VENGU AYYAR (*Secretary to the Diwan*).

Sir, I rise to move for the grant of Rs. 42,426 under "Registration". This department has, on the receipt side, a sum of Rs. 1,35,000. The expenditure of the department in 1099 was only Rs. 68,150. The budget estimate for the current year is Rs. 64,600, and the total amount provided for the year 1101 is Rs. 68,100. The excess is accounted for as follows:— A sum of Rs. 200 has been provided towards the pay for 4 months, of a temporary clerk on Rs. 50 per mensem, appointed for bringing the Registration Manual up-to-date. The term of the temporary clerk on Rs. 20 in the Chalakkudi Registry Office has to be extended for the whole of 1101. The cost of this comes to Rs. 240. There is an increase of Rs. 150 under "Travelling Allowance", as compared with the actuals of 1099. This increase is due to the fact that, during the major part of the year 1099, a second class officer presided over the department, whereas, now, it is presided over by a first class officer. A sum of Rs. 2,865 has also been provided towards leave allowance. There is nothing more to be explained.

Mr. MATHEW KOLADI VATAKKOT (*Kunnamkulam*).

In that case, I withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn, and the grant was made.

DEMAND XII—Anchal—Rs. ·68 lakh.

Motion Nos. 39 and 40.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ (*Anglo-Indians*).

To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 68,900 under Anchal by Rs. 1,000.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 68,900 under Anchal by one rupee.

Mr. A. K. VENGU AYYAR (*Secretary to the Diwan*).

Sir, I rise to move for a Demand of Rs. 62,375 under Anchal.

The Anchal Department exists mainly for the convenience of the public, and it is a fact that the department could not work without co-operation from the public; and since the British Post Offices also exist in the State, and British letter boxes are also planted in prominent places—side by side or near

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our Cochin Anchal letter boxes, Government have taken care to see that the Anchal rates are so fixed as to induce the public to prefer our Anchal to the British Post for transmission of communications from and to places within the State. The Anchal rates are comparatively less than those prevailing in British India and Travancore.

President.—They are speaking about figures.

Mr. A. K. VENGU AYYAR (*Secretary to the Diwan*).

Yes, Sir. I shall come to it. In 1100, the revised estimate is 70,300. In 1101, the budget estimate is 68,900.

President.—If there is any striking difference in any particular case, you may explain it. These things need not be explained.

Mr. A. K. VENGU AYYAR (*Secretary to the Diwan*).

There is nothing striking which requires explanation.

Mr C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

Except in the temporary establishments.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ (*Anglo-Indians*).

Sir, I have to say something on this. I propose to move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 68,900, under Anchal by Rs. 1,000. Now, the Government member just now pointed out that the Anchal Department is created for the convenience of the public, and I quite agree with him on that point. It is also pointed out that the Anchal rates are far lower than the British Postal rates. I quite agree with him. We find a deplorable fact that our people have to make more use of the Postal Department than the Anchal Department, in sending out letters. In fact, I myself and most of my friends have recourse to the Postal system whenever there is any necessity to see that letters reach in time their destinations in British India and Travancore. In the case of Anchal delivery, there is more delay than in the case of Postal delivery. Now, Government have explained and appealed to us with patriotic feelings to make more use of the Anchal than the Post. Unless proper steps are taken, and strict instructions sent to the peons and Anchal Masters that strict despatch is seen

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to, in the delivery of letters, I am sure that that defect will continue to exist; and people will continue to make use of the Postal Department. I myself am one of those forced to resort to the Post, and I have got instances also here.

President.—Is there any complaint?

Mr. V. K. KOCHUNNI MENON (*Ernakulam*).

The complaints are of two sorts. In the matter of delivery and in the matter of transmission.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ (*Anglo-Indians*).

Our Anchal offices do not at all deliver letters in time, especially in village parts. In the transmission also, delay is caused. Suppose you send a letter from Trichur to Trivandrum. Instead of going straight, it takes a circuitous channel. I do not know which way it goes; but I am sure it takes a long time, and, therefore, we are forced to have recourse to the Postal Department; and that money goes to enhance British revenue.

President.—The delay is in Travancore, and we have no control over it.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ (*Anglo-Indians*).

It is true, we have no control.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

Then, it comes to this: the Travancore Anchal service is not satisfactory. Ours is far better.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ (*Anglo-Indians*).

As compared with the British system a great delay is caused in the delivery as well as in the transmission of letters by Anchal; and therefore, we are forced at times to have recourse to the Postal system for transmission. The revenue now goes to the British Government and to the Travancore Government. My object, in pressing this motion, is to point out that there are certain complaints, regarding the working of the Anchal Department.

Then, Sir, I find newspapers that are to be sent by V. P. are to be registered. My complaint is that it is a matter which concerns public opinion. Now, of course, we have in this Legislative Council a medium through which to voice forth our feelings. But before

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this, we were entirely depending upon newspaper mediums; and I do not, for a moment, think that the Council will be the only medium. The people have to voice forth their feelings and supplement our work in this matter of bringing popular opinion and popular aspirations to the notice of the Government.

President.—What is the practice in the British Postal system? Do they register newspapers?

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

Registration was introduced last year in the British Postal system.

President.—We are then following the British system.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ (*Anglo-Indians*).

Vernacular papers especially cannot stand on their own legs. Many subscribers and managers are poor. As they find it a very difficult task to make both ends meet, they have to fall, often, on the V. P. P. system. If their difficulties are to be enhanced, certainly, we are putting a clog in the wheel of the progress of the paper world in the Cochin State. It will be a great boon to newspaper readers, if registration is to be done away with.

Then, I do not find, in the Anchal Department of the Cochin State, a system of sending money by Insurance, nor do I find any Savings Bank system. The Savings Bank system ensures thrift among the people. The poor people, of course, as a rule, go to the British Post Office for this purpose. Now, if you are to introduce this system in the Cochin State, that will be an additional revenue to the department, and the earnings of the masses of the people will increase.

These are, of course, some of the glaring defects that are seen in the working of the Anchal Department; and my object in putting forward this motion for a cut of Rs. 1,000 was only to bring to the notice of the Government that such defects exist. If there is an assurance that the Insurance and the Savings Bank systems will be introduced, and that the obnoxious and injurious registration of newspapers will be dispensed with, I shall be quite satisfied, and I shall not press this motion.

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Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

I shall take the opportunity to say now what I have to say on my motion for reduction in this department, which comes next. I shall not press it. My object in supporting this motion is to call the attention of the Government to the extremely low pay that the subordinate servants in the Anchal Department are getting. Compared to the Postal Department, the subordinates of the Anchal Department are very low-paid, and this, perhaps, explains the series of defalcations which we have come across with in this Department. Anchal masters and Anchal peons—all these have to handle large amounts of money. There have been several prosecutions.

President.—Very many in British parts also.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

That there are defalcations in British India is no reason why we should have them here. Sir, we shall at least increase the pay of these low-paid servants. The pay of the peons is Rs. 10 or 12 a month. How could a family man get on in this world with Rs. 12 a month? The Anchal service is meant more for the Government than for the public. All the Government correspondence in Cochin is sent through Anchal and Anchal alone. And I believe statistics would show that Government correspondence through Anchal is far heavier than correspondence by the public.

President.—We have to use stamps.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

That revenue goes to the Stamps Department and not to the Anchal Department. The Anchal Department is paid for the work they are doing.

Mr. A. K. VENGU AYYAR (*Secretary to the Diwan*).

Anchal Stamps value goes to the Anchal Department. Anchal is credited with Anchal Stamps. They pay Rs. 22,000 for cost of Anchal and Service Stamps.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

In my motion regarding stamps, I said that, if these stamps are printed here, we can make a saving. We

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can save a sufficient amount to meet an increment to the peons. Looking at the receipt side, we get more from Anchal than we spend over it. The Anchal is to bring Rs. 72,000 in 1100, while we spend Rs. 68,900 only. There is thus a saving of about Rs. 3,000. If we have any saving, it may be utilised for increasing the pay of the peons.

President.— They deserve every encouragement at the hands of the Government. In Travancore, the Department works at a loss of Rs. 6,000.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

It is in the mofussil parts that delay, on account of non-delivery of letters, occurs. I understand that in some places there is delivery only once or twice in a week. I think it would be desirable, if that is increased to three times a week or a little more. In towns, this difficulty is not felt as much as in villages.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ (*Anglo-Indians*).

If the assurance asked for is given, I shall be fully satisfied.

President:—It has already been given.

The motion was withdrawn with the permission of the Council, and the whole amount demanded was allotted.

DEMAND XIII—General Administration.
Rs. 1·08 lakhs.

Motion Nos. 41—44.

Mr. N. PADMANABHA MENON (*Cranganur*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for Lump provision for revision of establishment by one rupee.

Mr. MATHEW KOLADI VADAKKOT (*Kunnamkulam*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for Lump provision for revision of establishment by Rs. 1,500.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 17,562 for Legislative Council by one rupee.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 17,562 for Legislative Council by one rupee.

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